

Saltonstall Leverett
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Saltonstall Backs Westmoreland, Reaffirms Support of President

Former U.S. Sen. Leverett Saltonstall supported yesterday Gen. William C. Westmoreland's mission home and the Vietnam commander's planned speech to Congress today.

Saltonstall recalled that "Marshall and Eisenhower reported to Congress during World War II" on the conduct of that war.

He referred to Gen. George C. Marshall, later secretary of state, and Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, later President.

Saltonstall also strongly reaffirmed his support for President Johnson's policy, in a luncheon speech before about 200 members of the Worcester Rotary Club in Putnam & Thurston's.

Supports LBJ

Saltonstall retired from the Senate last year, after 22 years' service in that body. "Personally, I supported the President, and I support him today."

He said, "I ask you, gentlemen, if you would wake up in the middle of the night, and wake up — as I do — and ask

yourself, what would I do if I were President Johnson?"

Saltonstall said he has "not yet heard anyone come up with a realistic alternative" to "what the President is doing."

Saltonstall said the United States "has got to carry on" in Vietnam "until we have the opportunity to negotiate."

Then he recalled that the President said he can't "negotiate with himself."

He said a formal declaration of war would increase the risk of Russian and Chinese intervention in the conflict.

Attacking Airfields

He said North Vietnamese airfields had not been attacked until recently because "the MIGs were not coming up." Now, he said, "the MIGs are coming up, and we're attacking those airfields."

He said that in 1968, there will be 3,464,302 men in military uniform, and 1,242,114 civilians attached to the Defense Department, "a tremendous buildup."

In turn, they will have about 9 million dependents, he said.

"The Congress is very sensitive, very intent on this situation," Saltonstall said, "but like the people as a whole, they support President Johnson."

Saltonstall also cited various government controls over Cen-

tral Intelligence Agency activities. The agency has come under fire for links with university programs overseas and secret subsidies of student groups.

Saltonstall was a member of a five-member Senate unit which met behind closed doors with CIA officials. "We took no notes, there were no reporters present, and we asked all the questions."

Besides consultations with members of Congress, the CIA also reports on its activities to the National Security Council, Saltonstall recalled.

CIA Spending

CIA spending is supervised by a special member of the federal Bureau of the Budget, he said. The CIA budget figure is not publicly revealed.

The ruddy-cheeked Dover resident now serves as chairman of the Massachusetts Minutemen program. The volunteer program is designed to promote the tourist and industrial advantages of the Commonwealth.

Dr. Kenneth I. E. Macleod, Worcester health commissioner, presented Saltonstall with an oil portrait done from a photograph of the former senator.

"I've done portraits of only two Massachusetts persons," Macleod said, "Saltonstall and Cardinal Cushing."